



# AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

February 6, 2018

SYLVIA M. BURWELL  
PRESIDENT

The Association for the Advancement of  
Sustainability in Higher Education  
2401 Walnut Street, Suite 102  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

RE: American University STARS Submission

Dear Sir/Madame:

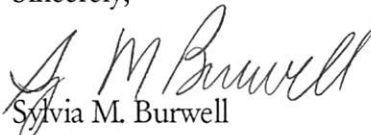
At American University, our commitment to sustainability is visible the moment you step onto campus. All 84 acres of AU's campus make up the American University Arboretum and Gardens, a verdant reminder that we must teach the next generation of advocates how to best protect our planet, and all those who call it home. You also see our commitment to sustainability in our values of social responsibility, service, and an active pursuit of sustainability. These values drive our continual progress on campus, pursuing the university's sustainability commitments and implementing policies dedicated to green building, zero waste, green cleaning, and sustainable purchasing.

Last year, perhaps our biggest accomplishment was the establishment of the U·Pass program, which provides unlimited rides throughout the semester on Metrorail and Metrobus. This program encouraged students to use public transportation, which has increased class field trips around DC and decreased student commuting emissions. We have also reduced total building energy consumption per unit of floor area by 34 percent, Scope 1 and Scope 2 GHG emissions per campus user by 81 percent, and potable water use per campus user by 32 percent from the 2005/2006 baseline.

We also took a major step towards the 2020 carbon neutrality goal by investing in a project to offset study abroad-related travel emissions. The Paradigm Project offers communities in Africa more efficient cook stoves, reducing greenhouse gas emissions through reduced deforestation while increasing employment and empowering women. Today, a student studying at the Nairobi Center can see AU's commitment to sustainable development firsthand.

We appreciate AASHE's efforts to advance sustainability. STARS is a valuable tool that allows our university to benchmark and measure progress as we move forward on the path to sustainability. As a Charter Participant using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS), I am pleased to affirm the accuracy of the university's fourth STARS report.

Sincerely,



Sylvia M. Burwell

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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